

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated October 29, 2002. As an initial matter, Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-15, 19, and 26-34.

In Paragraphs 1 and 2, claims 26 and 34 were objected to in view of informalities. In response, Applicant has amended those claims to address the specific informalities. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the objections be withdrawn.

In Paragraph 4, claims 16-18 and 21-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,926,452 to Baker *et al.* The Baker reference, however, does not show every limitation of independent claim 16 and therefore cannot anticipate these claims.

Claim 16 is directed to an apparatus for acquiring off-axis X-ray images of a plurality of regions of interest, the apparatus including a non-rotatable source of radiation that produces a beam. The Baker reference, however, discloses a rotatable source of radiation. See, for example, figure 1 and col. 10, section entitled "Rotating X-Ray Source." Thus, for this reason, the Baker reference cannot anticipate independent claim 16 and claims 17-25, which are dependent thereon.

In Paragraph 6, claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable in view of the Baker reference. As mentioned above, Baker does not show, nor does it suggest, an apparatus with a non-rotatable source of radiation and consequently cannot render obvious the invention set forth in claim 20.

For all the reasons provided above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of claims 16-25 be withdrawn and the claims passed to issue. If for any reason

the application is not considered to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at 312.935.2366.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX

In the claims

16. An apparatus for acquiring off-axis X-ray images of a plurality of regions of interest, comprising:

- a non-[steerable] rotatable source of radiation that produces a beam;
- a surface to support at least a subset of the plurality of regions of interest; and
- a detector located to receive portions of the beam that pass through the subset and to simultaneously produce an electronic representation of an image for each region of interest in the subset;

wherein at least one of the source, the surface, and the detector may be moveable to position the regions of interest within the beam.

26. An apparatus for acquiring off-axis X-ray images of test objects comprising:

- an X-ray source for producing a steerable electron beam from a number of different positions along a horizontal path perpendicular to a vertical axis, each position being at an angle from the vertical axis; and

- a high-resolution detector positioned to receive X-rays that are transmitted through at least two regions of interest [for] of the test object from each of the positions and to produce electronic representations of acquired off-axis images corresponding to the regions of interest.

34. A method for acquiring a plurality of off-axis X-ray images comprising:

- placing a test object with at least two regions of interest on an inspection plane;
- producing a steerable X-ray beam from a number of different positions along a horizontal path perpendicular to a vertical axis;
- directing an X-ray beam to a first region of interest;
- receiving on a detector X-rays that are transmitted through the first region of interest;
- directing an X-ray beam to a second region of interest;
- receiving on the detector X-rays that are transmitted through the second region of interest; and
- producing electronic representations of acquired off-axis images corresponding to the regions of interest.